

0-19

The Washington Merry-Go-Round Voter's Stake in

Campaign Funds

By Drew Pearson

Philip L. Graham, publisher of the Washington Post and Times Herald recently made a proposal that gets to the root of pocketbook Congressmen in other words, congressmen who take kickbacks, secret slush funds or other money on the side in addition to their regular salary.



He pointed out that no Senator or Representative should be obligated by political financial contributions to any special group of people and that political contributions therefore should be raised from all the people, not a few.

Graham's wise proposal was not aimed specifically at either the Nixon personal expense fund or the newly unearthed secret fund of Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.). It was aimed primarily at the general practice of making heavy contributions to any candidate for President or for Congress. However, Graham's idea is even more appropriate in the case of the Nixon and Bush secret personal funds, paid to both men by wealthy friends while serving in the Senate without the voters knowing a thing about it.

The Corrupt Practices Act was passed because it was considered only fair that if either big corporations or big labor unions contributed to a Senator, the amounts should be registered with the clerk of the Senate, so the public would know whether the Senator's vote was influenced by the campaign funds he received.

Nixon's Revelations

When, under pressure of public indignation, Senator Nixon then a candidate for Vice President, published his private expense fund it was found the money came chiefly from 15 oil operators, 11 real estate men, several milk products men and several munitions and war contractors.

Though Nixon claimed he had done no favors for any of his donors, it soon developed he had sent his administrative assistant to the Tax Division of the Justice Department to try to get a \$500,000 tax refund for Dana Smith. Smith was the man who collected the \$18,000 private expense fund for Nixon.

It also developed that when the same Dana Smith lost \$4000 at the San Souci gambling casino in Havana, gave a \$4000 check for the debt and then reneged on the check, Nixon actually wrote a letter to the American Ambassador to Cuba asking his help for Smith regarding this gambling debt.

Nixon's Record

Nixon's voting record in the Senate also showed that he went right down the line for the groups that contributed to his fund. Here, for example, is how he voted on issues of vital interest to the real estate operators who contributed:

Voted to cut public housing from 50,000 to 5000 units, to shorten rent controls by four months, to give localities the say so on imposing rent con-

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. Boardman ☒
Mr. Nichols ☒
Mr. Belmont ☒
Mr. Harbo ☐
Mr. Mohr ☐
Mr. Parsons ☐
Mr. Rosen ☐
Mr. Tamm ☐
Mr. Sizoo ☐
Mr. Winterrowd ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Mr. Holloman ☐
Miss Gandy ☐

INDEXED-42
EX-100 36-C-A
NOT RECORDED
76 JUN 20 1955

Wash. Post and Times Herald 59

Wash. News ☐

Wash. Star ☐

N. Y. Herald Tribune ☐

N. Y. Mirror ☐

Date: JUN 15 1955

50 JUN 24 1955

trols in critical areas; introduced an amendment to the defense bill aimed at side-tracking public housing.

And here is how he voted on issues affecting the oil operators who contributed:

For the basing-point bill which the oil companies favored; against cutting the oil depletion allowance to 14 per cent; vigorous champion of tidelands oil; sent copies of tideland oil literature for the oil companies out under his own Senate frank.

When Sen. Bush was asked who the contributors were to his \$25,000 secret fund, he at first offered to make the list public, then changed his mind.

However, he explained that his contributors were men who wanted to support his point of view.

When you examine Bush's voting record, however, you come to the conclusion that he concurred with his big contributors—or they concurred with him—on much more than hard money. At times he even deserted his own Republican President, Mr. Eisenhower, to side with the conservative business group that supported him.

Senator Bush's Record

Here are some of his more significant votes during the current sessions of Congress:

In favor of tying the President's hands regarding the exchange of atomic information; against permitting the Government to generate atomic energy; against the regulation of private business from using atomic energy; against sharing atomic patents as proposed by Mr. Eisenhower.

In regard to taxes, he was against closing the loophole in the estate tax on life insurance for tax reductions on corporation shareholders. Against reducing the excise tax on automobiles, for the \$50 tax exemption on corporate shareholders against the George amendment giving \$100 additional exemption for each dependent.

In regard to electric power, he opposed an increase of R.E.A. loans, opposed giving preferences to cities and co-ops in the distribution of Columbia River power, favored Dixon-Yates.

He also voted against Mr. Eisenhower on reciprocal trade

for three years, did not want to give Congress the right to review the sale of Government rubber factories; wanted to reduce the school lunch program; favored stiffening the Taft-Hartley Act; wanted to give railroads the right to increase rates without a hearing.

And finally, he voted to confirm Albert Beeson for the National Labor Relations Board despite the fact that Beeson said he would continue to draw a private business salary while working for the Government.

(Copyright, 1955, Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Prescott